

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A playback apparatus for playing back an AV stream recorded on a removable recording medium and generating subtitle data for displaying subtitles corresponding to the AV stream, the playback apparatus comprising:

reading control means for controlling reading of first information including a character object and attribute data for displaying the subtitles from the recording medium or a storage unit within the playback apparatus;

first decoding means for decoding the AV stream whose reading is controlled by the reading control means;

second decoding means for decoding the first information whose reading is controlled by the reading control means;

counting means for obtaining a count value serving as a reference for processing timing for decoding of the AV stream by the first decoding means;

calculation means for calculating a reference for processing timing for decoding of the first information by the second decoding means on the basis of the count value obtained by the counting means;

character object storing means for storing the character object included in the first information decoded by the second decoding ~~whose reading is controlled by the reading control means;~~

attribute data storing means for storing the attribute data included in the first information decoded by the second decoding ~~whose reading is controlled by the reading control means;~~ and

conversion means for acquiring font data and converting the character object stored in the character object storing means into the subtitle data by using the attribute data stored in the attribute data storing means and the font data.

2. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising operation input acquiring means for acquiring a user's operation input,

wherein, on the basis of the user's operation input acquired by the operation input acquiring means, the reading control means controls the reading of the first information stored in the recording medium or the storage unit within the playback apparatus.

3. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
operation input acquiring means for acquiring a user's operation input; and  
attribute-data-change control means for controlling change of the attribute data stored in the attribute data storing means on the basis of the user's operation input acquired by the operation input acquiring means,

wherein the conversion means converts the character object into the subtitle data on the basis of the attribute data whose change is controlled by the attribute-data-change control means.

4. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising operation input acquiring means for acquiring a user's operation input,

wherein the conversion means changes the acquired font data on the basis of the user's operation input acquired by the operation input acquiring means.

5. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising operation input acquiring means for acquiring a user's operation input,

wherein the reading control means performs:

further controlling reading of second information which is stored in the storage unit and which is information for controlling the reading of the AV stream and the first information, and the AV stream recorded in the recording medium;

controlling reading of the second information on the basis of the user's operation input acquired by the operation input acquiring means; and

controlling reading of the AV stream and the first information on the basis of the read second information.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1 [[6]], further comprising output means for combining the subtitle data generated by conversion by the conversion means and video data included in the AV stream decoded by the first decoding means, and outputting the combined data.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising communication means for exchanging information with a predetermined information processing apparatus via a network,

wherein the first information, which is received by the communication means, is stored in the storage unit within the playback apparatus.

11. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising virtual-file-system generating means which, on the basis of a file system of a first group of data stored in the recording medium and a file system of a second group of data stored in the storage unit within the playback apparatus, generates a virtual file system including at least part of each of the first group of data and the second group of data.

12. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein:  
the first information stored in the storage unit within the playback apparatus includes second information concerning the generation of the virtual file system;  
the reading control means further controls reading of the second information stored in the storage unit within the playback apparatus; and  
the virtual-file-system generating means generates the virtual file system on the basis of the second information whose reading is controlled by the reading control means.

13. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising storage means for storing the first information whose reading is controlled by the reading control means,  
wherein the storage means stores the first information, in which reading of the entirety of the first information is collectively controlled by the reading control means.

14. (Original) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising table information generating means for generating table information representing relationships between information of decoding start points of the first information whose reading is controlled by the reading control means and time stamps at the decoding start points,

wherein the reading control means controls the reading of the first information by referring to the table information generated by the table information generating means.

15. (Currently Amended) A playback method for a playback apparatus for playing back an AV stream recorded in a removable recording medium and generating subtitle data for displaying subtitles corresponding to the AV stream, the playback method including:

~~a reading control step of~~ controlling reading of first information including a character object and attribute data for displaying the subtitles from the recording medium or a storage unit within the playback apparatus;

decoding the AV stream whose reading is controlled by the controlling;

decoding the first information whose reading is controlled by the controlling;

obtaining a count value serving as a reference for processing timing for decoding the AV stream;

calculating a reference for processing timing for decoding the first information on the basis of the obtained count value;

~~a character object storing step of~~ storing the character object included in the decoded first information ~~whose reading is controlled in the reading control step;~~

~~an attribute data storing step of~~ storing the attribute data included in the decoded first information ~~whose reading is controlled in the reading control step;~~ and

~~a conversion step of~~ acquiring font data and using the stored attribute data ~~stored in the attribute data storing step~~ and the stored font data to convert the stored character object ~~stored in the character object storing step~~ into the subtitle data.

16. (Currently Amended) A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program for allowing a computer to execute a process for playing back an AV stream

recorded in a removable recording medium and generating subtitle data for displaying subtitles corresponding to the AV stream, the computer-readable program including:

~~a reading control step of controlling reading of first information including a character object and attribute data for displaying the subtitles from the recording medium or a storage unit within the playback apparatus;~~

decoding the AV stream whose reading is controlled by the controlling;

decoding the first information whose reading is controlled by the controlling;

obtaining a count value serving as a reference for processing timing for decoding the AV stream;

calculating a reference for processing timing for decoding the first information on the basis of the obtained count value;

~~a character object storing step of storing the character object included in the decoded first information whose reading is controlled in the reading control step;~~

~~an attribute data storing step of storing the attribute data included in the decoded first information whose reading is controlled in the reading control step; and~~

~~a conversion step of acquiring font data and using the stored attribute data stored in the attribute data storing step and the stored font data to convert the stored character object stored in the character object storing step into the subtitle data.~~

17. (Canceled)